

Appln. No.: 09/748,890

Amdt. Dated January 7, 2004

Reply to Office Action dated October 8, 2003

**Remarks/Arguments**

Reconsideration of this Application is requested.

Claims 1-5 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Kara, et al. (U.S. Patent o. 6,249,777B1). Claims 1-5 have been canceled.

Claims 6-11 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Kara, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,249,777B1).

Kara discloses the following in lines 14-22 of column 3:

"The present invention addresses the above-described problems of providing postage credit by providing a postage metering system and method whereby the metering of the postage, i.e., the assessing of payment and authorizing of postage, is accomplished at a remote location allowing access to a plurality of processor-based systems demanding postage. The postage demands are verified to ensure such demands are authorized to receive indicia of postage to be funded in accordance with the demand."

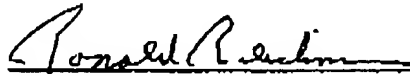
Kara does not disclose or anticipate step (c) of claim 6, as amended, and those claims dependent thereon, namely, running a postage meter application on said web server that communicates with at least one cost accounting table that includes the date of the meter transaction; the transaction identification, the meter account number; and the total count of pieces processed by the meter.

Claims 12-16 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Kara (U.S. Patent No. 6,249,777B1). Claims 12-16 have been canceled.

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In view of the above, claims 6-11 as amended are patentable. If the Examiner has any questions, will the Examiner please call the undersigned at the telephone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald Reichman  
Reg. No. 26,796  
Attorney of Record  
Telephone (203) 924-3854

PITNEY BOWES INC.  
Intellectual Property and  
Technology Law Department  
35 Waterview Drive  
P.O. Box 3000  
Shelton, CT 06484-8000